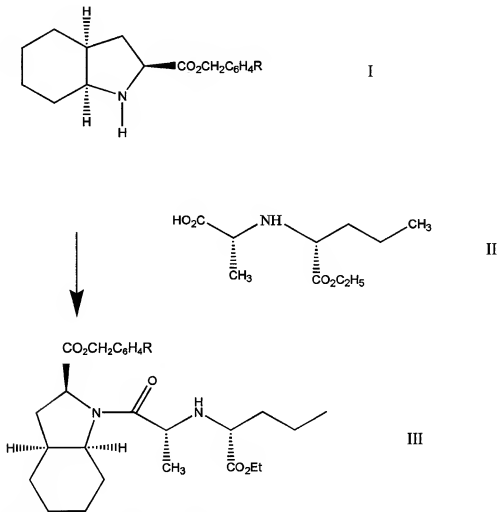


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*Listing of Claims:*

1. (Original) A process for preparing perindopril, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which process comprises coupling a substituted benzyl ester of (2S,3aS,7aS)-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid (I) with N-[(S)-carboethoxybutyl]-(S)-alanine (II):



where R represents a halo, C_{1-4} alkoxy or nitro substituent, to form the ester of formula III, wherein the coupling is carried out in the presence of N,N-dicyclohexyl carbodiimide (DCC) and

1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT): and converting the ester of formula III to perindopril or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2-35. (Canceled)